

Submission

2016 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap Capability Issues Paper

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- Question 1: Are there other capability areas that should be considered?
- Question 2: Are these governance characteristics appropriate and are there other factors that should be considered for optimal governance for national research infrastructure.
- Question 3: Should national research infrastructure investment assist with access to international facilities?
- Question 4: What are the conditions or scenarios where access to international facilities should be prioritised over developing national facilities?
- Question 5: Should research workforce skills be considered a research infrastructure issue?
- Question 6: How can national research infrastructure assist in training and skills development?
- Question 7: What responsibility should research institutions have in supporting the development of infrastructure ready researchers and technical specialists?
- Question 8: What principles should be applied for access to national research infrastructure, and are there situations when these should not apply?
- Question 9: What should the criteria and funding arrangements for defunding or decommissioning look like?
- Question 10: What financing models should the Government consider to support investment in national research infrastructure?
- Question 11: When should capabilities be expected to address standard and accreditation requirements?
- Question 12: Are there international or global models that represent best practice for national research infrastructure that could be considered?
- Question 13: In considering whole of life investment including decommissioning or defunding for national research infrastructure are there examples domestic or international that should be examined?
- Question 14: Are there alternative financing options, including international models that the Government could consider to support investment in national research infrastructure?

Health and Medical Sciences

- Question 15: Are the identified emerging directions and research infrastructure capabilities for Health and Medical Sciences right? Are there any missing or additional needed?
- Question 16: Are there any international research infrastructure collaborations or emerging projects that Australia should engage in over the next ten years and beyond?
- Question 17: Is there anything else that needs to be included or considered in the 2016 Roadmap for the Health and Medical Sciences capability area?

Environment and Natural Resource Management

- Question 18: Are the identified emerging directions and research infrastructure capabilities for Environment and Natural Resource Management right? Are there any missing or additional needed?
- Question 19: Are there any international research infrastructure collaborations or emerging projects that Australia should engage in over the next ten years and beyond?
- Question 20: Is there anything else that needs to be included or considered in the 2016 Roadmap for the Environment and Natural Resource Management capability area?

Advanced Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Materials

- Question 21: Are the identified emerging directions and research infrastructure capabilities for Advanced Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Materials right? Are there any missing or additional needed?
- Question 22: Are there any international research infrastructure collaborations or emerging projects that Australia should engage in over the next ten years and beyond?
- Question 23: Is there anything else that needs to be included or considered in the 2016 Roadmap for the Advanced Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Materials capability area?

Understanding Cultures and Communities

Question 24: Are the identified emerging directions and research infrastructure capabilities for Understanding Cultures and Communities right? Are there any missing or additional needed?

The Department strongly agrees with the identified emerging directions and research infrastructure capabilities for Understanding Cultures and Communities (UCC). Specifically:

- 8.1.1 *“Innovation and translation of research has been a major trend in the past decade, with the Australian Government increasing focus on innovation through its National Innovation and Science Agenda and with universities increasingly interested in innovation outcomes and research translation”.*

The Australian Government has been a collaborative partner in an Australian Research Council funded Linkage Project *'Return, Reconcile, Renew: the history, effects and opportunities of repatriation and building an evidence base for the future'*. The department in partnership with the Australian National University, The University of Melbourne, University of Tasmania, Flinders University, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre (KALACC), the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority (NRA), National Museum of Australia, University of Otago, Association on American Indian Affairs (AAIA), Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, and Gur A Baradharaw Kod Torres Strait Sea and Land Council. The project is examining the history and effects of the repatriation of ancestral remains from museums and other institutions both within Australia and overseas.

The goal of the project is to produce a connected digital online knowledge resource that includes copies of records from archives, libraries, museums and communities that meets the repatriation needs of those communities. There will also be other products produced from the research that can be used domestically and internationally. The project highlights the benefits of domestic and international collaboration between governments, universities, collecting institutions and communities and could be a model for further research in the humanities field.

"There are important ethical and community dimensions to the proper use of data in this domain, and therefore custodianship and curation needs to take account of community and cultural sensitivities and associated rights."

This *'Return, Reconcile, Renew: the history, effects and opportunities of repatriation and building an evidence base for the future'* project includes representatives from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Indigenous co-participation is essential in any project involving Indigenous communities directly, and consideration given to cultural sensitivities and associated rights.

8.1.2: *"The National Library's Trove has emerged as the nation's core digital humanities research infrastructure, enabling a paradigm shift for humanities researchers, providing a powerful platform to build sophisticated tools and techniques".*

8.1.2 is an accurate account of the important role that Trove plays as Australia's National Digital Infrastructure.

8.1.3: *"National and state cultural collecting institutions are a vital set of national research infrastructure to researchers... Maintenance, preservation and ready access to these collections is a key emerging concern to ensure that the use, value and potential of these national assets is maximised... Research infrastructure-like activities need to be supported and recognised as core national infrastructure"*

The Department strongly agrees with the 8.1.3. National research infrastructure is invaluable to Australian and international e-researchers. Trove has successfully brought together content from libraries, museums, archives and other research

organisations providing access to resources about and of interest to the Australian community. Trove provides the Australian public with access to over 471 million items of information.

Question 25: Are there any international research infrastructure collaborations or emerging projects that Australia should engage in over the next ten years and beyond?

All of our national collecting institutions (Australian National Maritime Museum, National Museum of Australia, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, National Portrait Gallery of Australia, National Gallery of Australia, National Film and Sound Archive and National Library of Australia (NLA)) collaborate with their international counterparts on numerous UCC projects- from exhibitions, to digitisation projects.

The National Library of Australia's has a collection of over 600,000 maps- both Australian and internationally. These are constantly in demand from overseas researchers and government institutions. These are predominantly shared digitally.

Furthermore, the NLA's Trove is internationally recognised as best-practice in e-collection digitisation. Trove is available for free domestically and internationally- constantly fostering new international relationships.

National collecting institutions, including the NLA, will be making their own, separate submission which will outline in detail their upcoming international collaborations.

The international repatriation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestral remains depends on research within both Australian and international collecting institutions. Understanding how we can improve the curation and storage of digital research material pertinent to repatriation will need to be pursued to enhance the research process and to help provide a comprehensive history of the Indigenous experience. This process has started through the *Return, Reconcile, Renew: the history, effects and opportunities of repatriation and building an evidence base for the future* project, however it is limited by the lack of ongoing funding and infrastructure. If there is a national approach this would ensure the infrastructure has longevity and the scope of the existing project can be broadened beyond the current limited number of communities.

Question 26: Is there anything else that needs to be included or considered in the 2016 Roadmap for the Understanding Cultures and Communities capability area?

The Department strongly agrees with the identified capabilities for Understanding Cultures and Communities (UCC). Specifically:

- 8.2.2: *“Access to historical documents, images, cultural artefacts, art collections and the vast data holdings of Government is core to UCC. Maintenance of these holdings is an increasing challenge that needs to be addressed.”*

Conservation of materials held in National and State Collecting Institutions is not limited only to the 'physical' object. Many institutions have had a strong focus on increasing the amount of their collection that is available digitally through e-research portals such as Trove. It is imperative that digitisation is recognised by Government as national infrastructure and as a significant preservation tool.

8.3.1 *"The national digital humanities capability is required to make both old and new data discoverable and usable and to extract greater value from existing collections. This capability will draw together, leverage and enhance existing investments in Trove, the Humanities National Infrastructure, the Australian Data Archive, and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) digitised collections, amongst others, to integrate and support national digital humanities research."*

Research for the humanities is stored on multiple platforms and many of the existing infrastructure platforms are not currently supported by national research infrastructure programs. Any potential new infrastructure should consider a platform to aggregate data currently stored on multiple platforms to create a central repository for the national digital humanities.

National Security

Question 27: Are the identified emerging directions and research infrastructure capabilities for National Security right? Are there any missing or additional needed?

Question 28: Are there any international research infrastructure collaborations or emerging projects that Australia should engage in over the next ten years and beyond?

Question 29: Is there anything else that needs to be included or considered in the 2016 Roadmap for the National Security capability area?

Underpinning Research Infrastructure

Question 30: Are the identified emerging directions and research infrastructure capabilities for Underpinning Research Infrastructure right? Are there any missing or additional needed?

10.1.1: "eResearch infrastructure", and 10.1.3: "Digitisation" speak in general and broad terms about the importance of e-learning and e-research databases. The Department thinks that this section could include more specific examples and achievements, for example, the National Library of Australia's Trove.

The Department strongly agrees with 10.1.3: While individual institutions are working to develop digitised collections, it is a slow process that would benefit from national coordination and funding."

Question 31: Are there any international research infrastructure collaborations or emerging projects that Australia should engage in over the next ten years and beyond?

Question 32: Is there anything else that needs to be included or considered in the 2016 Roadmap for the Underpinning Research Infrastructure capability area?

Data for Research and Discoverability

Question 33 Are the identified emerging directions and research infrastructure capabilities for Data for Research and Discoverability right? Are there any missing or additional needed?

Question 34: Are there any international research infrastructure collaborations or emerging projects that Australia should engage in over the next ten years and beyond?

There may be ongoing projects working with international institutions in the area of repatriation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestral remains.

Question 35: Is there anything else that needs to be included or considered in the 2016 Roadmap for the Data for Research and Discoverability capability area?

The Department agrees with 11.3: "Australia's future research data capability should be informed by, utilise, integrate and build on existing investments." Trove is an existing investment in digital infrastructure that the Australian Government should utilise in terms of preserving Australian collections digitally.

There is support for potential new infrastructure such as the national digital humanities capability that can support digital research from across the humanities both in Australia and internationally.

Other comments

If you believe that there are issues not addressed in this Issues Paper or the associated questions, please provide your comments under this heading noting the overall 20 page limit of submissions.